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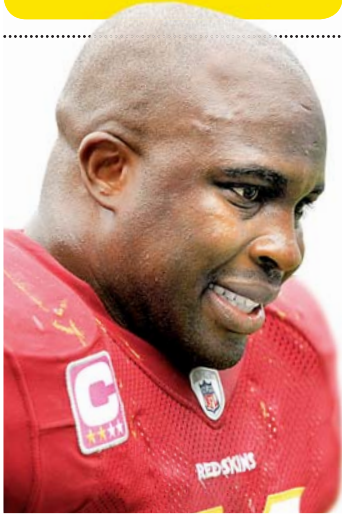
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Wednesday



A CONSPICUOUS ABSENCE
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DECEMBER 16, 2009 | A PUBLICATION OF The Washington Post | NEWS, ENTERTAINMENT, ARTS, LIFESTYLES | FREE DAILY

D.C. SAYS 'I DO'

Council approves bill to legalize gay marriage 11

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION



EYE OPENERS

Good Kids Breathlessly Await Christmas Fire Truck

You won't find a nativity scene at the Kokomo, Ind., courthouse, but you might spot a dinosaur or the Loch Ness monster. The lighted displays there also include a fisherman, soldiers and a fire truck. The president of the Howard County Board of Commissioners said it received requests for a Nativity scene on the courthouse grounds. The request was considered, but "we're following the advice of our attorney," he said. (AP)

"He smelled like alcohol. So, I knew it wasn't the real Santa, because Santa doesn't drink alcohol."

— KATIE DOCKERTY, 9, WHOSE MOM CALLED THE POLICE WHEN A DRUNKEN SANTA STUMBLED INTO THEIR YARD SHOUTING FOR HIS REINDEER. HE WAS ARRESTED.

The East Bosom Reconsiders Its Business Plan

Parody or piracy? That's the question raised by a lawsuit filed by the North Face Apparel Corp. against a company that calls itself the South Butt. The lawsuit asks the court to prohibit the South Butt from making, marketing and selling its parody line of clothing. The company's tag line is "Never Stop Relaxing," a play on the North Face's "Never Stop Exploring." (EXPRESS)



The Big Picture



WATCH OUT, HUMANITY. In the first recorded case of an invertebrate using tools, an octopus was photographed wrapped around a coconut shell and using it to protect itself on the floor of the sea. Australian scientists on Tuesday revealed that the species carries the coconut shells to use as armor. (EXPRESS)



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Kids' H1N1 Shots Are Recalled

Atlanta

Hundreds of thousands of swine flu shots for children have been recalled because tests indicate the vaccine doses lost some strength, government health officials said Tuesday.

The shots, made by Sanofi Pasteur, were distributed across

50

The number of Americans, in millions, who have been sickened by swine flu since April, the CDC says.

for young children, ages 6 months to nearly 3 years.

Dr. Anne Schuchat, a CDC flu expert, stressed that parents don't need to do anything or to worry if their child got one — or even two — of the recalled shots. The vaccine is safe and effective, she said.

The issue is the vaccine's strength. Tests done weeks after the vaccines shipped indicated the strength of the shots had fallen slightly below required levels.

MIKE STOBBE (AP)

Replacement for Gitmo Chosen

Fed to buy Ill. prison, will retrofit it to hold terrorism suspects

Washington

President Obama has ordered the federal government to acquire an underused state prison in rural Illinois to be the new home for a limited number of terror suspects now held at the U.S. detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The federal government will

acquire Thomson Correctional Center in Thomson, Ill., transforming the prison in a sleepy town near the Mississippi River into a prison that exceeds "supermax standards," according to a letter to Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn that was signed by members of the Obama administration's national security team.

The decision is an important step toward closing Guantanamo Bay. Thomson, about 150 miles from Chicago, is expected to house both federal inmates and no more

than 100 detainees from Guantanamo Bay.

Administration officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they could not yet lay out a time-frame for when a transfer of detainees from the Navy-run detention facility to Thomson. They said the administration would have to work with Congress to amend laws and secure funding before any prisoners are brought to U.S. soil.

The officials said military tribunals for potential detainees would be held at Thomson. They also said

that the facility could house detainees whom the president determines must be held indefinitely but can't be tried.

Republicans were quick to criticize the administration's plan.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said the American people "already have rejected bringing terrorists to U.S. soil." He accused the administration of failing to explain how transferring the detainees would keep the public safer than keeping them offshore in Cuba. HENRY C. JACKSON (AP)

Boeing's 787 Finally Takes Off



BOEING EMPLOYEES CHEER as a 787 airplane takes off for its first test flight on Tuesday in Everett, Wash. The plane is the first of six 787s Boeing will use in a nine-month test flight program. The first test was supposed to be in 2007, but Boeing was forced to push that back five times — delays that have cost the company credibility, sales and billions of dollars.

VOLUME CONTROL



The House on Tuesday

voted to level off the abrupt spikes in volume TV viewers experience during commercial breaks. The bill is aimed at stopping TV ads from being played noticeably louder than programs. Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Calif., drafted the measure after discovering it was a common complaint with the FCC. An identical measure is pending in the Senate. (AP)

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Nation

In a meeting at the White House Tuesday, President Obama urged Senate Democrats to pass a health care bill by Christmas.

Obama: Health Bill Near Passage

Washington
President Obama urged Senate Democrats to overcome the last, lingering disputes blocking agreement on a national health care overhaul Tuesday, declaring they were “on the precipice” of enacting historic legislation that has eluded lawmakers for decades.
In comments after a private meeting, the president said differences still remain over details, but he spoke in highly favorable terms

about the measure that party leaders hope to pass by Christmas.
The bill includes “all the criteria that I laid out” in a speech to a joint session of Congress earlier in the year, he said.
The meeting came after an intense two days in which Democrats struggled to keep the legislation moving forward despite a flare-up about a proposal to expand Medicare to uninsured men and women as young as 55.
Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., on

Sunday said he opposed the plan, and he threatened to join Republicans in voting against the bill.
Democrats are ready to jettison the Medicare change, and Lieberman said that assuming they do, “then I’m going to be in a position where I can say what I’ve wanted to say all along: that I’m ready to vote for health care reform.”
That left Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., the only known potential holdout among the 60 senators in the party’s caucus. **DAVID ESPO (AP)**

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Nation

Evangelist Roberts Dies

Pastor helped bring prosperity gospel into the mainstream

Tulsa, Okla.

Oral Roberts, the evangelist who rose from humble tent revivals to found a multimillion-dollar ministry and a university bearing his name, died Tuesday. He was 91.

Roberts died of complications from pneumonia in Newport Beach, Calif., according to his spokesman, A. Larry Ross. The evangelist was hospitalized after a fall on Saturday.

Roberts was a pioneer who broadcast his spirit-filled revivals on television, a new frontier for religion when he started in the 1950s. He was also a forerunner of the controversial "prosperity gospel" that



Oral Roberts, who founded a university that bears his name, died on Tuesday.

has come to dominate televangelism. The evangelist's "Seed-Faith" theology held that those who give to God will get things in return.

Roberts overcame tuberculosis at age 17 and credited that tri-

umph with leading him to become one of the country's most famous ministers.

He gave up a local pastorate in Enid, Okla., in 1947 to enter an evangelistic ministry in Tulsa to pray for the healing of the whole person — the body, mind and spirit. The philosophy led many to call him a "faith healer," a label he rejected with the comment: "God heals — I don't."

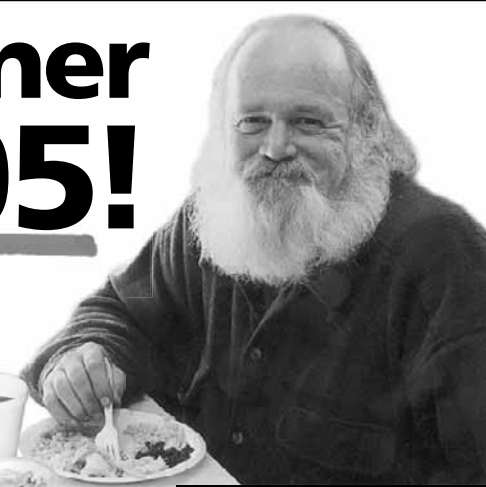
By the 1960s and '70s, he was reaching millions around the world through radio, television, publications and personal appearances.

Unity of body, mind and spirit became the theme of Oral Roberts University. The campus is a Tulsa landmark, with its space-age buildings laden with gold paint, including a 200-foot prayer tower and a 60-foot bronze statue of praying hands. JUSTIN JUOZAPAVICIUS (AP)

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In Brief

ROME

Attacker Writes Letter Of Apology to Berlusconi



Tartaglia

The man who attacked Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi apologized to him for his "cowardly and uncontrolled" attack as a judge considered whether he should be transferred to a psychiatric hospital. Massimo Tartaglia wrote to Berlusconi through his lawyers, saying he was sorry for striking him on Sunday with a statuette. Berlusconi was still hospitalized. (AP)

BAGHDAD

Two Bombings Kill Nine

A barrage of bombings killed nine people in two of Iraq's largest cities—Baghdad and Mosul—Tuesday, stoking Iraqis' anger that insurgents continue to slip past security forces amid looming elections. (AP)

MEXICO CITY

Calderon Proposes Major Political Reforms

President Felipe Calderon is proposing runoff elections in future presidential contests in Mexico's most dramatic political reform attempt in decades. The proposal announced Tuesday would still limit presidents to a single, six-year term, but it would relax Mexico's ironclad ban on re-election of other officials. (AP)

Bomber Strikes Afghan Capital

Eight killed in suicide attack near home of former vice president

Kabul

A suicide car bomber struck Tuesday near the home of a former Afghan vice president and a hotel frequented by Westerners, killing at least eight people and wounding nearly 40 in a neighborhood considered one of Kabul's safest.

The blast was the deadliest in the heart of the city since an Oct. 28 assault on a guesthouse filled with U.N. staffers killed eight people, including five U.N. workers.

Tuesday's attack occurred mid-morning in Kabul's heavily guarded Wazir Akbar Khan district, an area favored by foreigners and wealthy Afghans.

Security officials at the scene suspected the target was the home of former vice president Ahmad Zia Massoud — brother of legendary anti-Taliban fighter Ahmad Shah Massoud, who was killed in an al-Qaeda suicide bombing two days before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

"Of course we were the target,"



Afghan security workers help an injured woman after a bombing in Kabul on Tuesday.

said Shah Asmat, an aide to the former vice president. "Before, the Taliban killed Massoud. Now, they tried to kill his brother."

Ahmad Zia Massoud, who served in President Hamid Karzai's first

administration, was home, but he was not hurt.

The scene was chaotic, with rescue workers rushing victims on stretchers past the suicide bomber's shattered vehicle, which flipped

Meanwhile ...

In a separate attack near a politician's home Tuesday, a suicide car bomber detonated explosives in Dera Ghazi Khan, Pakistan, killing 33 people. The attack badly damaged the lawmaker's house, and shops and buildings at a nearby market, including a mosque and bank. It was unclear whether the bomber was targeting the home of the politician, who was not there at the time, or the market. (EXPRESS/AP)

and was engulfed in flames. Thick smoke rose from the area, situated at the base of a hill adorned with a billboard of the late Massoud.

The explosion was heard several miles away at the Foreign Ministry, where about 200 officials and diplomats were meeting to discuss corruption in the Afghan government.

During a speech at the gathering, Karzai said two of Massoud's guards were among the dead. In a statement released later by the palace, Karzai condemned the bombing as an attack on "humanity and Islam." DEB RIECHMANN (AP)

200K

The number of French citizens who will each receive a free newspaper subscription for one year as part of a government-sponsored \$905 million aid package to help save the ailing print news industry, the Christian Science Monitor reported. The first 200,000 18- to 24-year-olds to sign up for the "Mon Journal Offer" can choose from 60 newspapers. (EXPRESS)

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U.K. Arrest Law Is Under Review

Livni cancels visit upon news of secret action against her

London

Britain pledged Tuesday to reform a peculiar legal power that lets judges order the arrest of visiting politicians and generals — a threat currently focused on Israeli visitors that, one day, might be invoked against President Obama or Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

Lawyers working with Palestinian activists in recent years have sought the arrest of senior

Israeli civilian and military figures under terms of “universal jurisdiction.” This ill-defined legal concept empowers judges to issue arrest warrants for visiting officials accused of war crimes in a foreign conflict.

Their latest target is Tzipi Livni, Israel’s former foreign minister and current opposition leader, who staunchly defends Israel’s invasion of the Gaza Strip. Israel’s government confirmed Tuesday that she canceled a planned London trip this month after her office received news of a secretly issued arrest warrant awaiting her arrival.

Foreign Secretary David Miliband later announced that Brit-



Israeli Tzipi Livni, shown in 2008, canceled a trip to London to avoid arrest.

ain would no longer tolerate legal harassment of Israeli officials in this fashion.

Speaking after meeting Israel’s London ambassador Tuesday

night, Miliband said the British law permitting judges to issue arrest warrants against foreign dignitaries “without any prior knowledge or advice by a prosecutor” must be reviewed and reformed.

Miliband said the government was determined that arrest threats against visitors of Livni’s stature would not happen again.

“Israel is a strategic partner and a close friend of the United Kingdom. We are determined to protect and develop these ties,” Miliband said. “Israeli leaders — like leaders from other countries — must be able to visit and have a proper dialogue with the British government.” GREGORY KATZ (AP)

China, U.S. Spar Over Pollution

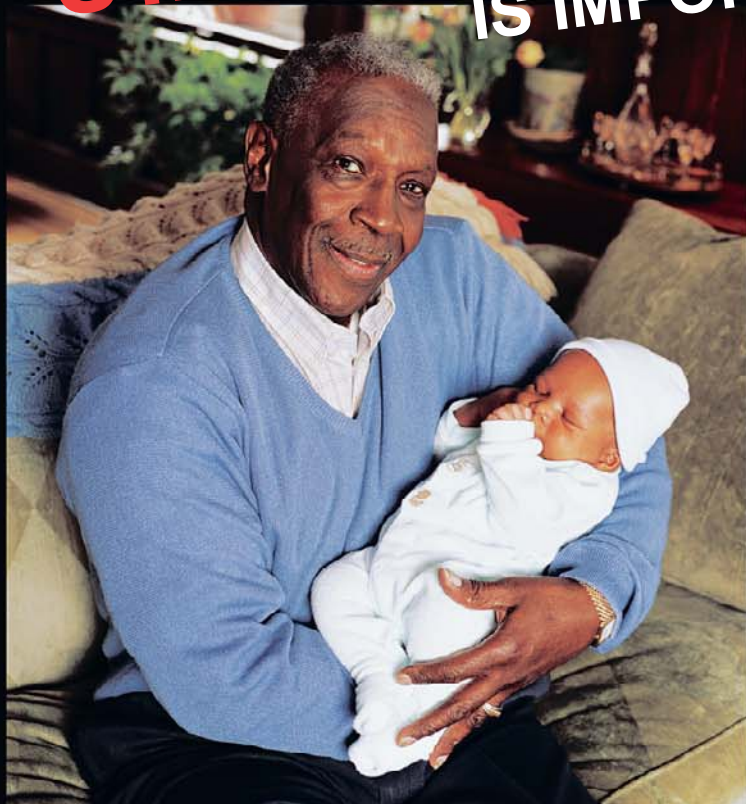
Copenhagen

In a showdown between the world’s two largest polluters, China accused the U.S. and other rich nations Tuesday of backsliding on fighting global warming, and the top U.S. envoy said Chinese greenhouse gas emission commitments should be independently verified.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said rich and poor countries must “stop pointing fingers” and should increase their pledges to cut emissions.

New negotiating drafts circulating Tuesday showed key issues, including emissions targets for industrial nations, remained unresolved. (AP)

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World



Lava spews from the 8,070-foot Mayon volcano in Albay, Philippines, on Tuesday.

20,000 Evacuated In the Philippines

Villages are emptied as a major volcanic eruption is predicted

Manila, Philippines

The Philippines' most active volcano oozed lava and shot up plumes of ash Tuesday, forcing thousands of people to evacuate their homes and face the possibility of a bleak Christmas in a shelter.

State volcanologists raised the alert level on the cone-shaped, 8,070-foot Mayon volcano overnight to two steps below a major eruption after ash explosions.

Dark orange lava fragments glowed in the dark as they trickled down the mountain slope overnight. Renato Solidum, head of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, said the activity could get worse in coming days.

"It's already erupting," Solidum told The Associated Press.

More than 20,000 people were

50,000

The approximate number of people who live within a five-mile radius of the Philippines' Mayon volcano. It last erupted in 2006, prompting the evacuation of about 30,000 people.

evacuated to safety by nightfall Tuesday, said Gov. Joey Salceda of Albay province, where Mayon is located about 210 miles southeast of Manila.

The first of 20 vehicles, including army trucks, were sent to villages to take residents to schools and other temporary housing, provincial emergency management official Jukes Nunez said.

"It's 10 days before Christmas. Most likely people will be in evacuation centers, and if Mayon's activity won't ease down, we will not allow them to return to their homes," Nunez said. "It's difficult and sad, especially for children."

JIM GOMEZ (AP)

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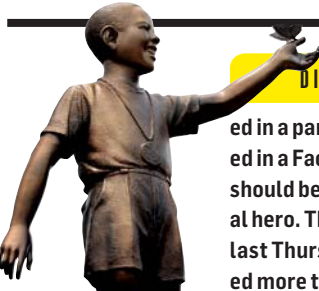
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DISPUTES

A statue of President

Obama as a boy erect-

ed in a park in Jakarta, Indonesia, has been targeted in a Facebook campaign by thousands who say it should be removed because Obama is not a national hero. The 43-inch statue of Obama was unveiled last Thursday, and the Facebook group had attracted more than 15,000 members by Tuesday. (AP)

D.C. Takes the Plunge

Council approves historic bill legalizing gay marriage in the nation's capital

Washington

The D.C. Council gave final approval Tuesday to a bill to legalize same-sex marriage, setting off a wave of excitement in the gay community even as opponents vow to continue the fight on Capitol Hill.

The bill, approved by a vote of 11-2, will now go to Mayor Adrian M. Fenty, a Democrat, who is expected to sign it before Christmas. The bill will become law in the spring if it survives a 30-day legislative review period.

After the vote, dozens of same-sex marriage supporters rose to their feet and began cheering in the council chamber, despite council rules prohibiting public demonstrations.

"In many ways, this is the final prize," said council member Jim Graham, D-Ward 1, one of two openly gay council members.

"We believe we are firmly rooted in the right side of history, and I know we are going to prevail," said council member David A. Catania, I-At Large, who is also gay and sponsored the bill. "But we are going to have to remain vigilant to protect this right."

During the debate, council member Marion Barry, D-Ward 8, said he could not support the bill but acknowledged the body was making history.

"This must be a proud day for you David, Mr. Graham," said



L. Page "Deacon" Maccubbin, left, proposes to his partner of 32 years, Jim Bennett, after the D.C. Council approved gay marriage on Tuesday. Same-sex couples can begin marrying in the spring if the bill survives an upcoming congressional review.

1,948

The estimated number of same-sex couples that may marry over the next three years if the bill goes into law, according to an early analysis done by the District's financial office.

Barry, a one-time civil rights leader. "Just as it was a proud day for me when the voting rights bill was passed in 1965. But this is a democracy and I reserve the right to disagree."

Council member Yvette D. Alexander, D-Ward 7, who, like

Barry, represents neighborhoods east of the Anacostia River, also voted against the legislation, saying her constituents have told her they oppose same-sex marriage.

The Rev. Anthony Evans, associate minister of Mt. Zion Baptist

What's Next?

The Fight Moves To Capitol Hill

After Mayor Adrian M. Fenty signs the same-sex marriage bill, it must survive a 30-day congressional review period. To block the legislation, the Democratic-controlled House and Senate and President Obama would all have to sign off on a disapproval resolution within 30 legislative days, which advocates say is not likely. Short of a voter-approved referendum on the issue, gay marriage in the District is probably here to stay. (TWP)

Church, said he and other ministers will not relent in their efforts to block the legislation. Led by Bishop Harry Jackson of Hope Christian Church, opponents of the bill have sued in Superior Court to try to force a referendum to define marriage as being between a man and a woman.

But gay rights leaders, who say they have prepared for this moment for decades, heralded the vote as a historic day in the worldwide struggle for gay rights.

On Monday night, about 350 same-sex marriage supporters held a pre-vote rally at a city recreational center in Shaw. Some of those who attended were religious leaders, underscoring how more than 200 faith leaders in the District have endorsed same-sex marriage.

"This is a moment in history that I think all gay people have been waiting for," Erika Zommer, 27, of Northeast said at the rally. "But I think with my generation, I knew this day would come."

TIM CRAIG (THE WASHINGTON POST)

"It's interesting to be 41 and for the first time to feel like a fully enfranchised person."

D.C. Council member David Catania told The Washington Post ahead of the second and final vote by the D.C. Council to approve same-sex marriage. The bill's passage is a professional and personal triumph for Catania, who came into office 12 years ago Tuesday. An openly gay Council member who left the Republican Party to become an independent in 2004, Catania made gay marriage his primary issue a decade ago. In perhaps a bitter twist, though, he separated from his partner of seven years over the summer. Catania, though, holds out hope to walk down the aisle.



Change Bubbles Up at Hirshhorn

Museum considers temporary, inflatable 145-foot-tall structure

Washington

The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the contemporary-art home of the Smithsonian Institution, is considering a plan to cover its courtyard with a 145-foot-tall temporary, inflatable structure.

Richard Koshalek, the museum's director, has enlisted architects Diller Scofidio + Renfro to design what would be a seasonal hall, erected twice a year, the Smithsonian confirmed.

It would serve two purposes. It would be a playful element, with its balloon top popping through the roof, a whimsical addition to what many feel is a troubled structure. The south side of the Mall, where the forbidding, doughnut-shaped museum is located, is nestled among many formal, albeit kitschy, buildings, including the



The inflatable addition, which would be anchored in the courtyard, would cost \$5M.

historic Castle building, the shuttered Victorian-style Arts and Industries Building and the modern storage bunker of the National Air and Space Museum.

The planned space would also create a place to discuss contemporary cultural issues, rather like a Chautauqua on the Potomac. Since

It would be a playful element, with [a] balloon top ... a whimsical addition to what many feel is a troubled structure.

he arrived in April, Koshalek has outlined plans to make the Hirshhorn a think tank for the debates of the day, especially in the arts. One of the missions of the Hirshhorn, he has said, is to be "an ideas factory."

The budget for the inflatable addition, which would be anchored in the courtyard and rise though the building's open top, would be about \$5 million, the Smithsonian confirmed.

The plan has been discussed with the Hirshhorn's board and the Smithsonian Board of Regents, and the staff is planning informal meetings with the National Capital Planning Commission. Formal approval from the NCPC is not required, because the structure is a temporary addition.

Diller Scofidio + Renfro has worked on many cultural institutions, including the Dia Center, the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston and the redevelopment of Lincoln Center in New York. JACQUELINE TRESCOTT (THE WASHINGTON POST)

D.C. Man Exonerated In '81 Rape

Washington

A Washington man who has spent nearly 28 years in prison for the rape and slaying of a Georgetown University student in Rock Creek Park was ordered released Tuesday morning by a D.C. Superior Court judge after DNA evidence revealed that another man committed the crime.

Donald Eugene Gates, now 58, had maintained his innocence from the start. He was to board a bus from a prison in Arizona on Tuesday afternoon and head to a new home in Ohio.

Senior Judge Fred B. Ugast angrily criticized government officials who relied heavily on the testimony of an FBI analyst during Gates' trial. The analyst incorrectly linked Gates to two hairs from a black male, found on the body of white college student Catherine Schilling, who was slain in 1981.

That FBI analyst, Michael P. Malone, was discredited in a 1997 review by the Justice Department along with 13 other analysts for making false reports and inaccurate tests. KEITH L. ALEXANDER (THE WASHINGTON POST)

The Lotteries

Tuesday, Dec. 15

Maryland

Mid-day Pick 3 3-8-8
Evening Pick 3 (Mon.) 3-6-8
Mid-day Pick 4 7-3-1-0
Evening Pick 4 (Mon.) 1-1-7-2
Match 5 (Mon.) 16-21-31-33-35 (37)

District

Mid-day Lucky Numbers 8-2-9
Evening Lucky Numbers (Mon.) 1-6-6
Mid-day DC 4 4-6-1-4
Evening DC 4 (Mon.) 8-1-3-1
Mid-day D.C. Five 7-0-2-8-3
Evening D.C. Five (Mon.) 9-3-9-7-4
Daily 6 (Mon.) 12-15-17-18-22-38 (36)

Virginia

Mid-day Pick 3 7-9-3
Evening Pick 3 (Mon.) 5-2-6
Mid-day Pick 4 0-0-2-8
Evening Pick 4 (Mon.) 5-6-9-8
Mid-day Cash 5 (Tues.) 2-3-6-9-32
Evening Cash 5 (Mon.) 8-11-15-24-30

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Blache Makes a Pro-Bowl Pitch

Defensive coach ends silence to make the case for LB Fletcher

Redskins

For the past three seasons, Redskins defensive coordinator Greg Blache has watched his top linebacker wreak havoc every single Sunday, only to be slighted when Pro Bowl votes are tallied.

He says he's not oblivious to the



Greg Blache had not spoken to the media since Oct. 5. He agreed only to answer questions on his players, not his long silence.

reasons, and Blache broke his media silence this week to explain why London Fletcher is one of the game's most consistent and dependable defensive players yet hasn't reached a Pro Bowl in 12 seasons.

"The thing that hurts London is that he doesn't act like an idiot every time he makes a tackle," Blache said. "He acts the way a professional is supposed to act, and consequently, it's cost him."

In making a case for his players, Blache was animated, passionate and blunt, saying rewards often find the game's flashiest players, not necessarily its best.

"There are some guys who don't show respect for the game but bring this look-at-me attitude to it, and strut and dance and prance every time they do something that they're paid to do. And that gets people's



Eagles running back LeSean McCoy is tackled by Redskins linebacker London Fletcher, who has never played in the Pro Bowl.

The NFL's Susan Lucci?

London Fletcher has more tackles in the past decade than any other player. When he was passed over for the Pro Bowl last season, he called himself "the Susan Lucci of the NFL," referencing the actress who was nominated for 19 Emmys before finally winning. At 34, Fletcher is having his best season since joining the Redskins, defensive coordinator Greg Blache said. According to the league's numbers, Fletcher is tied for second in tackles with 118, five behind San Francisco linebacker Patrick Willis. He also has two sacks, an interception and a forced fumble. (TWP)

attention," Blache said. "That doesn't mean you're a great player; it means you take attention away from the unit and put it on yourself."

Players are voted into the Pro Bowl by fans, coaches and players with each group's ballot accounting for a third of the voting. Fans can vote at the NFL's Web site until the polls close at the conclusion of Monday's Giants-Redskins game. Players and coaches will then cast their ballots next Tuesday and Wednesday, and the teams will be announced Dec. 29.

If Blache has his way, Fletcher will finally break through. "He is our coach on the field, as far as getting guys aligned, making checks, recognition, calling out offensive sets," he said. "The guy is smarter than a lot of assistant coaches that I've worked with." RICK MAESE (THE WASHINGTON POST)

In Brief



Mike Holmgren resigned as the Seattle Seahawks' coach at the end of last year.

PRO FOOTBALL Holmgren in Talks To Run the Browns

Former Seattle and Green Bay coach Mike Holmgren, with one Super Bowl title and success brimming from an impressive NFL resume, spent a second day meeting with the Browns about running their football operations. Holmgren was not scheduled to leave town Tuesday, a sign that the sides are working out details on a contract. (AP)

REDSKINS No Tampering Found In Haynesworth Signing

The NFL has determined that the Redskins violated no tampering rules in their offseason pursuit of All-Pro defensive tackle Albert Haynesworth, a club source confirmed Tuesday. That means the Redskins will not lose any draft picks or be fined for signing Haynesworth in February. (TWP)

BASEBALL Panel to Discuss Replay

Managers Tony La Russa, Jim Leyland, Joe Torre and Mike Scioscia have been selected for a committee that could recommend expanded instant replay and playoff format changes. The group was selected by commissioner Bud Selig and also will examine scheduling, umpiring and pace of game. No players or umpires are included. (AP)

BASEBALL White Sox Land Pierre

Outfielder Juan Pierre was traded to the Chicago White Sox from the Los Angeles Dodgers Tuesday along with \$10.5 million for two players to be named. (AP)

MORE HIGH PRAISE

Defensive coordinator Greg Blache also singled out defensive linemen Brian Orakpo and Andre Carter, who are the NFL's most prolific sack duo, with 22 this season. Blache said Orakpo was a no-brainer for Rookie of the Year.

ON BRIAN ORAKPO

"No disrespect to them, but the other rookies in this class — the other rookies in last year's class — he's heads and shoulders above them."

ON ANDRE CARTER

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Sports

Nothing Tops Perfection

Colts, Saints should put aside fear and go for undefeated year

Commentary

Of course they should go for the perfect season, both of them, the New Orleans Saints and Indianapolis Colts. They ought to dismiss the very thought of safely coasting across the finish line, of resting starters for the playoffs and fretting over injuries that might occur or might not.

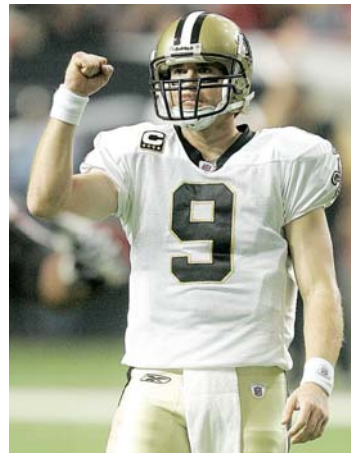
Having reached 13-0, they should stop treating perfection like a burden and approach the remaining three games of this regular season as if this is their chance of a lifetime, which it obviously is.

The Saints have pretty much had this right since Week 6, when Reggie Bush said going undefeated was possible. The Colts, on the other hand, seemed to be afraid of committing; it came as something of a surprise Monday when Colts coach Jim Caldwell said Indy will approach Thursday night's game in Jacksonville "just as we have done the previous 13."

Only three years ago the notion of a team going 16-0 was unthinkable. Then the New England Patriots did it, and won a pair of playoff games to go 18-0 before failing to



Peyton Manning and the Colts, and Drew Brees' Saints are both 13-0 this season.



finish the Perfect Season by losing to the Giants in the Super Bowl.

The Saints will be heavily favored in all three of their games, and the Colts, who have a difficult opponent this week in Jacksonville, would be heavily favored in their final two games.

Theirs is the joint story of this season. If either gets through unscathed, that team becomes the greatest team, by record, in NFL history. If the two were to meet in the Super Bowl, the winner would become not only the greatest team in pro football history, but one of the greatest teams in the history of American sports.

The Colts have already won a Super Bowl in the Peyton Manning era. And the NFL isn't the NBA or NHL, where worthiness is measured in multiple championships. One is significant. You know how

the Colts can pull even with the Belichick/Brady Patriots who have three Super Bowl victories? Do the one thing the Pats failed to do: complete the Perfect Season.

The Saints have a much more difficult path in the NFC, with the Eagles and Packers surging, and the defending conference champ Cardinals at least in the playoff field. Yet it's the Saints who are eager to take a swing at it. Darren Sharper, the Saints' ball-hawking safety, came right out and said, "We want to play for history."

If we're lucky, at least one of these two teams will find the allure of doing something never done before greater than the fear of failing. And if both manage to get to the Super Bowl without losing, it'll create a championship of unimaginable perfection. (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Doc in Drug Probe Treated Tiger

Doping

A Canadian doctor who has treated golfer Tiger Woods, swimmer Dara Torres and NFL players is suspected of providing athletes with performance-enhancing drugs, according to a newspaper report.

Human growth hormone and Actovegin, a drug extracted from calf's blood, were found in Dr. Anthony Galea's bag at the U.S.-

Canada border in late September, the New York Times reported. He was arrested on Oct. 15 in Toronto by Canadian police. Using, selling or importing Actovegin is illegal in the United States.

The FBI has opened an investigation based in part on medical records found on Galea's computer relating to several professional athletes, people briefed on the inquiry told the Times. (AP)

TV Lineup

WIZARDS (10:30 P.M., ESPN) The Wizards try to end their slide out west against the Sacramento Kings; the Dallas Mavericks visit the Oklahoma City Thunder in the first half of an NBA doubleheader.
COLLEGE HOOPS (7 P.M. AND 9 P.M., ESPN2) Mississippi State hosts Wright State, and Arkansas-Little Rock travels to South Alabama.

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A MESSAGE FROM

BILL HANBURY**PRESIDENT AND CEO
UNITED WAY OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA**

No matter what your faith or how you celebrate the holidays, I hope you'll remember that for many folks around the Capital Region, just meeting basic needs is a real challenge. Our economy is still struggling and this reality has plunged many more people into poverty, homelessness and hunger. There are however, angels in our midst working hard to help our neighbors and bring hope to those in need. These are the caring people at United Way's partner agencies.

The needs of our fellow citizens for food, shelter and health services have never been higher. As I travel around the region, I realize our partner agencies are doing more than ever to meet these pressing problems... and in many cases doing so with less. Several of our partners have reported a decrease in government and foundation support forcing them to lay off staff and streamline their operations. This at a time when unemployment is almost 30 percent in parts of DC and demand for food assistance is up as much as 100 percent in neighborhoods throughout the region. The need for your financial support has never been greater.

At the same time, we are hearing inspiring stories of hope and commitment. Faced with dwindling resources and increased demand, the staff and volunteers at our agencies are doing more, working harder and digging into their own pockets to fulfill their missions. Whether providing groceries for families, hot meals for the hungry, school supplies and warm clothes for kids, or medical services for the uninsured, United Way agencies are there to help. They are making a real difference in the lives they touch—and with more than 950 agencies throughout the greater Washington region United Way supports good work in a wide variety of areas.

I want to extend a heartfelt “thank you” to all of the non-profit professionals and volunteers across the region who are meeting the needs of our neighbors who are most at risk. These people are practicing real holiday spirit. I ask you to join them in this spirit and to support their efforts. I ask you to give generously to the United Way.

Happy Holidays,

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Washington DC Jewish Community Center— Behrend Builders Program CFC# 50304

The Behrend Builders Program at the Washington DC Jewish Community Center is committed to aiding those most-in-need by improving the standard of building structures, residences and facilities in Washington, DC. Behrend accomplishes these goals by helping to rebuild low-income housing, supporting social service agencies that provide services to the homeless, renovating and revitalizing their facilities and mobilizing volunteers from all walks of life to take part in these activities. During their annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, several volunteers supported projects on-site at M.C. Terrell Elementary and Shaw Junior High—two schools affected by the DC Public School closings. More than 85 volunteers cleaned and painted five floors of M.S. Terrell Elementary school and on the same day, Behrend Builders reported to Shaw Junior High's gym which became the depository for all library books removed from recently closed schools, and sorted more than 10,000 books for use at local public libraries. Volunteers also prepared and distributed 2,000 bags of nutritious food to shelters and community kitchens. This day of service helped meet the needs of many families, students and individuals throughout the region.



DC Central Kitchen CFC# 67538

The DC Central Kitchen is founded on the premise that when fighting poverty, one must fight to win by using every resource available. Be it food, money, or people, they hate to see wasted potential. The Kitchen conducts a Culinary Job Training course and some of their students (from the 75th class) helped produce more than 250,000 meals for local social service agencies. This work provides students with real-world training as they meet the intense production schedule and timeline of meal preparation. Students from Class 75 will now join their fellow alumni of the Culinary Job Training program as they begin their successful culinary careers. After only three weeks of job searching, recent graduates have already secured positions with leading employers including Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, J & G Steakhouse (located in the W Hotel Washington), All Faith Consortium, McCormick and Schmick's, Jamaica, Palena, and the Grand Hyatt. Trained and passionate, this class will join the workforce with the vigor and skill set to succeed.



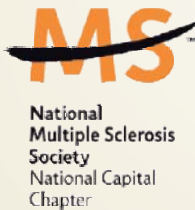
Carpenter's Shelter CFC# 87293

Carpenter's Shelter provides services to the homeless, promoting lifelong self-reliance. In its efforts to fulfill the needs of those without homes, Carpenter's Shelter offers five programs along a continuum of care, to a diverse homeless community. Through their Transitional Housing program, they were able to assist a woman who was recently divorced and unprepared to handle the financial repercussions of being a single parent. Despite her hard work, she was unable to make ends meet and she was eventually evicted from her apartment. With no place to go, she and her son entered Carpenter's Shelter. By living at Carpenter's Shelter, she maintained her employment while providing a safe environment for her child. She also saved money for her future housing. Her determination to improve her family's quality of life convinced the staff that she would be an ideal candidate for Carpenter's Transitional Housing program. She continues to save while honing the life skills she was taught at Carpenter's, easing her towards permanent independence and self-sufficiency.



Northern Virginia Family Service CFC# 79645

Northern Virginia Family Service operates on the principle that families are the foundation of a strong society. A strong family unit creates a healthy community. Their Building, Educating, Strengthening and Training program (BEST) is one of the many services they offer. One graduate of the program started out as a newly divorced mother with an infant and a toddler. To complicate matters, her infant had a health condition so he could not be in a daycare program. He needed personalized care which made full-time employment impossible for this young mother. The BEST program provided housing and connected her with many vital resources. Throughout the two years she was in the program, she began working full-time, obtained support for her son's special needs and she eventually enrolled in courses at a community college. At the end of her schooling, she secured a job as a certified firefighter and now she helps to rescue others in the greater Washington area.



National Multiple Sclerosis Society CFC# 44115

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society helps people affected by MS by funding cutting-edge research, driving change through advocacy, facilitating professional education and providing programs and services that help people with MS and their families move their lives forward. This disease can take a devastating toll on families. In one household, all four family members were affected by Multiple Sclerosis. It is not uncommon for multiple members of a family to be diagnosed with MS; although the disease is not directly inherited, genetics play a role. With some assistance from various community resources, the family is largely self-sufficient. However, given their various physical and financial limitations—none of the four are able to work so the family has few financial resources to address unexpected needs. The family relies heavily on motorized scooters for mobility. Within one month this winter, both scooters broke, severely limiting their independence. The local chapter paid for the necessary repairs. Throughout the year, a family facing multiple disabilities was able to remain as independent as possible.

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Arlington Food Assistance Center **CFC# 19265**

The Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) provides supplemental groceries to Arlingtonians who cannot afford to purchase all the food they need. The high cost of living in the area means that many families simply cannot make ends meet. AFAC helps solve this problem by distributing groceries to people in need. The Letter Carriers Food Drive in May 2009 yielded 20,894 pounds of food. That figure is up 40% from the food gathered in 2008. Volunteers logged 149 hours sorting the food collected. Other volunteers helped swell the number of pounds collected by leafleting in various neighborhoods and apartment complexes around the county. Families across the area did not go hungry because of the center's efforts.



ALIVE!, Inc. **CFC# 44658**

ALIVE!, Inc. serves thousands of Alexandrians annually with shelter; low-cost early childhood education and childcare; financial help for rent and utilities, medical care and other critical needs. Like many families during these trying economic times, one family of four came to ALIVE!, Inc. for support. Due to job loss and financial duress, the family had to move into a one room basement apartment for six months until the father could secure employment. He found a job and they moved into a two bedroom apartment but they could barely afford to pay the rent or to keep the utilities on. When the mother fell ill, dad had to miss work to care for her and the children. The emergency food delivery from ALIVE!, Inc. sustained this family during a painful and difficult time. Fortunately, the mother has fully recovered and both parents are able to support their family.



United Communities Against Poverty, Inc. **CFC# 51327**

United Communities Against Poverty (UCAP) is dedicated to providing ample services to individuals and families whose quality of life has been negatively impacted by poverty, unemployment, homelessness, crime and inadequate public health services. Through their Employment Express program, one woman learned that she had more skills than she thought. She began attending UCAP's GED preparation classes. Shortly after, she proudly walked in UCAP's winter graduation ceremony but that was only the beginning. She stabilized her life by deciding to stay with her present job and to attend UCAP computer classes in the evening. Employment Express helped her to decide what she was willing to do until she could qualify for what she wanted. Instead of becoming an unemployment statistic, she continues to work with a plan for the future.



Girls, Inc. of the Washington DC Metropolitan Area **CFC# 69687**

Girls, Inc. works to inspire all girls to be strong, smart and bold and to equip young women with the tools that they need to succeed in all areas of their lives. A great example of the Girls, Inc. mission in action is their Junior Bison Bots Robotics team. Early this fall, ten girls from Howard University Middle School of Math and Science signed up to be on the Girls, Inc. Lego League Robotics team. These ten middle school girls did not know each other but were interested in learning more about robotics. During the next two months the girls worked diligently to get ready for their first competition. The girls decided to focus on making transportation easier for children in hospitals by developing a flexible and adaptable wheelchair. The Junior Bison Bots went on to represent the only all female robotics team at the competition and placed first in the category of teamwork. Their dedication, hard work and success are true examples of how Girls, Inc. inspires all girls to be strong, smart and bold.



St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home **CFC# 29344**

Throughout its 150 years of service, St. Ann's has been a pioneer in developing programs to help the area's most vulnerable women and children. St. Ann's has served as an orphanage, an adoption agency, an emergency shelter for abused children and as an affordable day care program for working families. In recent years, a two-month old infant came to St. Ann's with a diagnosis of failure to thrive. Prior to admission, she had surgery to decrease excess fluid on her brain. Unfortunately, the surgery was unsuccessful. As a result, she had to undergo an additional procedure. Since being discharged to St. Ann's, all of the child's extensive follow-up care was coordinated by the home's staff and the child made a full recovery. Both her health and physical development have improved. Physical therapy has also been successful in helping this child make progress toward age appropriate developmental goals, and today she is only about a month behind where she should be.

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Below represents a sample of our partner agencies. For a complete list visit UnitedWayNCA.org.

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74405	So Others Might Eat (SOME)	34256	Christ House
30794	Capital Area Food Bank	52402	Prince William Area Free Clinic, Inc.
65357	Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington	97535	My Sister's Place, Inc.
56509	Children's Hospital Foundation	90946	N Street Village
29262	Martha's Table, Inc.	10566	Lupus Foundation of America
48974	National Capital Area Council, Boy Scouts of America	13132	SHABACH! Ministries, Inc.
83997	Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington	60349	Diabetes National Institute
67538	DC Central Kitchen	90617	Reston Interfaith, Inc.
19265	Arlington Food Assistance Center	78343	Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area
52114	Food & Friends	17053	Bright Beginnings, Inc.
96686	American Red Cross of the National Capital Area	19446	Koinonia Foundation, Inc.
61733	Bread for the City	48507	Bethesda Cares, Inc.
50781	Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia	52847	Jewish Council for the Aging of Greater Washington, Inc.
44919	Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington	58934	ACCA, Inc. Annandale Christian Community
10570	American Cancer Society	83436	Coalition for the Homeless, Inc.
48469	Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA)	11808	Autism Society of America
47830	Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital	40234	Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless
40790	Food for Others, Inc.	24525	Sickle Cell Disease Association of Greater Washington, Inc.
23028	Manna Food Center, Inc.	26732	ARC of Greater Prince William / INSIGHT
98883	The Salvation Army City Command	70510	National Center for Children
77685	American Diabetes Association	49705	Hebrew Home of Greater Washington
11679	ECHO	26732	The ARC of Prince George's County
81118	HEROES, Inc.	31592	Pediatric Primary Care Project
63343	USO Council of Metropolitan Washington	13954	Green Door
27085	Miriam's Kitchen	89017	Bethany House of Northern Virginia, Inc.
16329	Big Brothers Big Sisters of the National Capital Area	59200	Habitat for Humanity of Prince George's County
30374	Gaithersburg HELP, Inc.	91062	CASA de Maryland, Inc.
50162	SERVE	20146	Ezra Nehemiah Solomon, Inc.
72413	Fairfax FISH, Inc.	41421	Maryland Special Olympics, Inc.
99740	Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless	99894	Concerned Black Men, Inc., Washington, DC Chapter
60586	Doorways for Women and Families	70437	Good Shepherd Housing & Family Services
87524	Greater Prince William CASA, Inc.	57578	Habitat for Humanity International, Inc., Prince William County, Manassas and Manassas Park
85936	Montgomery Hospice Society, Inc.		

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Chief Skate
Stephen Colbert
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Sports Illustrated **31**



Off the Cuffs



MICHAEL LOCCISANO/GETTY IMAGES

Pop, Tartless

It's been a Lady Gaga-ful year, what with four No. 1 hits off her debut album, the endless parade of crazy-cool costumes and being named this past week, alongside Michelle Obama and Sarah Palin, to Barbara Walters' "Most Fascinating People" list. (Priceless moments from their prime-time

interview include the 80-year-old Walters remarking, "There is a line ... 'Bluffin' with my muffin.' I hope I'm allowed to say it!")

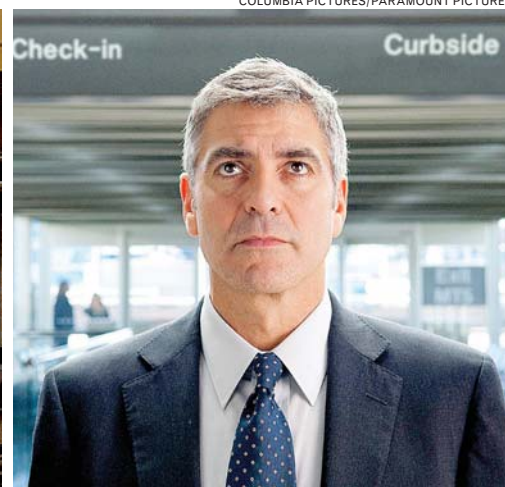
But despite Miss Gaga's catchy hooks (Sing it with me: "Puh-puh-poker face!") and bizarrely chic wardrobe of bubble dresses and bird's nest headwear, what's most intriguing is that she's conquered the pop world without being the least bit sexually provocative. For a decade now, pop's chart-topping princesses — Britney, Beyonce, Christina et al — have made racy, revealing outfits as much a part of the Top 40 countdown as the Auto-Tune. But Lady Gaga sells without the sex — even when decked in skimpy attire, her look is more strange than suggestive (See: the recent MTV Video Music Awards performance in blood-splattered lingerie). Finally, originality triumphs over overt sexuality — and that's more thrilling than even the contents of Miss Gaga's closet.



By Betsy Lowther



Meryl Streep was nominated for her roles in both "Julie & Julia," left, and "It's Complicated." George Clooney, right, earned a best actor nomination for "Up in the Air."



COLUMBIA PICTURES/PARAMOUNT PICTURES

The Chosen Ones

Clooney's 'Up in the Air' is the Golden Globe favorite with its six nominations

Awards

The Golden Globe Award nominations announced Tuesday morning were dominated by the story of a man living his life in perpetual limbo.

"Up in the Air" — the critically lauded drama that stars George Clooney as a professional downsizer who never misses an airline connection but fails to connect with his family — led the field with six nominations, including nods for best motion picture — drama; best director (Jason Reitman), best screenplay; best actor (Clooney) and best supporting players (Vera Farmiga and Anna Kendrick). Up against "Up in the Air" in that best picture category: "Ava-

Flukes

Elements of Surprise

Among this year's "Really?" moments: Tobey Maguire's nod for best actor in a drama for "Brothers," a film in limited release that never built much buzz; a nod for Julia Roberts as best actress in a musical-comedy for the almost-forgotten "Duplicity"; and not one, but two nominations for Sandra Bullock, first for her turn as a no-nonsense businesswoman in "The Proposal" (comedy), and second for her portrayal of a woman who takes in a homeless high-schooler in "The Blind Side" (drama). J.C.



tar," James Cameron's sci-fi epic that reportedly wowed members of the Foreign Press Association during screenings last week; "The Hurt Locker," Kathryn Bigelow's intense and in-the-moment Iraq war picture; a war epic of a very different sort, Quentin Tarantino's "Inglourious Basterds"; and "Precious," the adaptation of Sapphire's novel "Push," about a pregnant teenager suffering from unspeak-

able abuse.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association — the group of international journalists behind the Globes — routinely breaks its best-picture field into two categories, honoring five musicals or comedies in addition to the dramas.

The nominees on that end are: "Nine," the adaptation of the Fellini-inspired Broadway show; "It's Complicated," the rom-com for the

50-plus set starring Meryl Streep; "Julie & Julia," another Streep comedy, the one in which she clucks happily as Julia Child; "(500) Days of Summer," the boy-meets-then-loses-girl indie romance; and "The Hangover," the biggest box office hit (at least so far) among the top film contenders. Matt Damon and Streep walked away with dual nominations, the former for his dramatic work in "Invictus" and for his comedic turn as clueless corporate spy in "The Informant!," and the latter for her roles in "It's Complicated" and "Julie & Julia." (That marks 25 lifetime Golden Globe nods for Streep. But at this point, really, who's counting?)

Do the people basking in the glow of Foreign Press adulation this morning have a lock on an Oscar nod come Feb. 2? Not necessarily. Although the Globes often serve as foreshadowing for the Academy Awards, it's worth noting that only once in the last five years — last year, when "Slumdog Millionaire" fever swept the world — has a Globes best picture winner synched up with the Oscars' top prize.

JEN CHANEY (THE WASHINGTON POST)

online
now

expressnightout.com ►► "Sesame Street Live" will be at Patriot Center; we talked to the cast's sole human character about not being fuzzy. ►► Squawking about the hilarious fourth season of Adult Swim's series "Robot Chicken." ►► Behind the scenes of the Jam Master Jay DVD "2 Turntables and a Microphone."

@ Comments? Give Betsy your feedback:
expressnightout.com/offthecuffs



top
stops

1 Filthy Eenglish K-nights!

Though this musical version of the story of King Arthur has some structural problems (Hint: if you ever write a musical, don't include lots of songs about events that happen offstage), "Camelot's" music is achingly gorgeous, and the story remains tragic and compelling, even though you know the ending. **F.Z. Olney Theatre Center, 2001 Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Olney; through Jan. 17, \$26-\$49; 301-924-3400, Olneytheatre.org.**

2 When Irish Films Are Screenin'

The Capital Irish Film Festival showcases movies from the Emerald Isle, a place that captures the American imagination in many ways. No, it's not entirely green and covered in sheep. No, not everyone there is an alcoholic. You know, if you go see some of the movies about it, you might know a little bit more. We'll hold you a spot at the bar. **F.Z. Various locations; through Sun., \$10; 800-494-8497, Irishfilmfest.org.**

3 The Devil You Know

C.S. Lewis' "The Screwtape Letters" was a handbook on how to live devoutly disguised as a comic take on the devil's minions. Now the Fellowship for the Performing Arts brings a stage adaptation to the Shakespeare Theater, just in time to remind you that your yen for those \$400 boots is distinctly ungodly. **F.Z. Shakespeare Theatre, 450 7th St. NW; through Jan. 3, \$20-\$60; 202-547-1122, Shakespearetheatre.org. (Gallery Place)**



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TV tonight **lookout**

They're Bad or Good

Tonight's Christmas shows range from stellar to dreadful

Holidays

ABC
9:00

Christmas is all around tonight. "Modern Family" repeats a Christmas-themed episode that reminds us why this comedy is nearly universally acclaimed as the breakout new series of the season. Like only the smartest sitcoms, "Family" blends the smart and even edgy with the sweet and occasionally touching without ever descending to blatant sentimentality.

For every memorable holiday offering, though, there seem to be at least five forgettable duds. Some rise to the level of memorably bad.



The Christmas episode of "Modern Family" manages to be edgy yet touching.

"Disney Prep & Landing" (8 p.m., ABC) — repeated for the third time tonight — is a terribly ill-conceived combination of Christmas, militarism and adult ennui.

Similarly, the 2004 comedy "Surviving Christmas" (10 p.m., TNT) was possibly the worst-reviewed Christmas movie since

"Santa Claus Conquers the Martians." Variety called it "An almost mirth-free, poorly conceived comedy destined to offer Ben Affleck bashers satchels full of new ammunition." And Entertainment Weekly groaned weakly, "There are no survivors here." **KEVIN MCDONOUGH** (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

Film



Noir Kind of Night

Dashiell Hammett's hard-boiled private eye Sam Spade (Humphrey Bogart) finds himself in hot water with a bunch of bad eggs in "The Maltese Falcon" (8 p.m., TCM). He searches for a jewel-encrusted statue he comes to realize is "the stuff that dreams are made of," while deceits and double-crosses pile up around him. Mary Astor, Sydney Greenstreet and Peter Lorre also star in this 1941 film noir classic directed by John Huston. (TRIBUNE MEDIA)

Best Bets

CBS
8:00



The New Adventures Of Old Christine

Christine reluctantly attends her neighbor's (guest star Molly Shannon) holiday block party, where she discovers a juicy secret about her hostess in the new episode "It's Beginning to Stink a Lot Like Christmas."

ABC
8:30

The Middle When Brick's teachers determine that he is "socially challenged," Mike involves the boy in various activities, eventually settling on the block party lawn-mower contest, where Brick proves talented.

BRAVO
9:00

Top Chef: Las Vegas

One of the funniest parts of watching reunion shows such as tonight's special episode is looking at the reassembled cast and realizing you have no idea who some of the chefs are.

ABC
9:30

Cougar Town Jules is determined to get Grayson to tell her she is sexy. After the birth of Stan, Ellie feels less attractive. (TRIBUNE MEDIA)



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People walk in front of a Ferris wheel at the Christmas market in Erfurt, Germany, left. At a market in Cologne, Germany, women dressed as angels shop for holiday treats.

'Tis Germany's Season

Christmas markets spread holiday cheer across the country

Traditions

The run-up to Dec. 25 in Germany is marked not just by a rush of shopping but also by the nation's many convivial Christmas markets. While the most renowned are the massive markets in Dresden and Nuremberg, many find the season is best celebrated at the dozens of smaller markets across the nation, like the one in Rothenburg ob der Tauber. Here, locals and visitors alike pack the central Reiterlesmarkt

square to enjoy the intimate nature of the quaint town. Surrounded by medieval walls that date back to the 12th century, Rothenburg is also home to Kaethe Wohlfahrt, makers of ornaments and wooden carvings that are popular year-round with tourists but that really grab attention in the Christmas season. A couple hours southwest of Rothenburg, visitors to Esslingen have the choice to visit either a modern or a medieval Christmas market — which takes all the fantasy of medieval dress, customs, traditions and food, and places it in a market atmosphere. Bringing joy into Germany is what Christmas markets are all

“When you think about Christmas, Christmas markets are always part of the equation.”

—KATHARINA FUELLSACK, 16, WHO RECENTLY VISITED THE CHRISTMAS MARKET IN KONSTANZ, GERMANY.

about, said Steffi Fasora, who works at markets across the region. Decembers are dark and gloomy, “and people are usually sitting in the house and being depressed,” she said. “That is why we set up a Christmas market — to bring the people out here, to have fun, to meet each other, to spend their

money, of course! This is what it’s all about.” A couple stalls down, breadsticks were baked in a wood-burning oven, while a shoemaker sewed together his wares. A bagpiper in a long brown robe strolled around, and children made their own hand-dipped candles. A roughly 20-foot-high Ferris wheel attracted Roberta Morrissey’s children, ages 12, 9 and 6 — all having the time of their lives. Morrissey, who moved to Germany last summer when her husband was stationed there with the U.S. military, shouted over the bagpipes, “It’s actually an Old-World feel, Old-World culture, extremely family-friendly.” LAURA STEVENS (AP)

Zion National Park Establishes Relationship With Chinese Park

Nature

Zion National Park is establishing a sister relationship with a national park in China. Officials say Danxiashan National Park is Zion’s first sister park in China, according to the Spectrum, a newspaper based in St. George, Utah.

Zion Superintendent Jock Whitworth says the agreement between the parks will involve sharing ideas, staff and research to better understand both parks and cultures. The relationship was celebrated Dec. 13 as the deal was finalized. Danxiashan’s director says his park contacted Zion about a possible relationship because the two



Zion National Park’s red rocks are similar to those in China’s Danxiashan park.

locations share a similar formation of red rocks. A Zion Park ranger says the two parks are very similar. The big difference between the American and Chinese parks is that the climate near China’s south coast, where Danxiashan is located, is much wetter than the American park’s climate. (AP)

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From Budget Travel Magazine

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You'll Be in Nog Heaven

Classic or new-wave eggnog brings cheer at this time of year

Cocktails

At seasonal soirees, good tidings often come ladled from an eggnog bowl. But all too often, the host slings store-bought, from-a-carton-stuff that packs a bah-humbug punch.

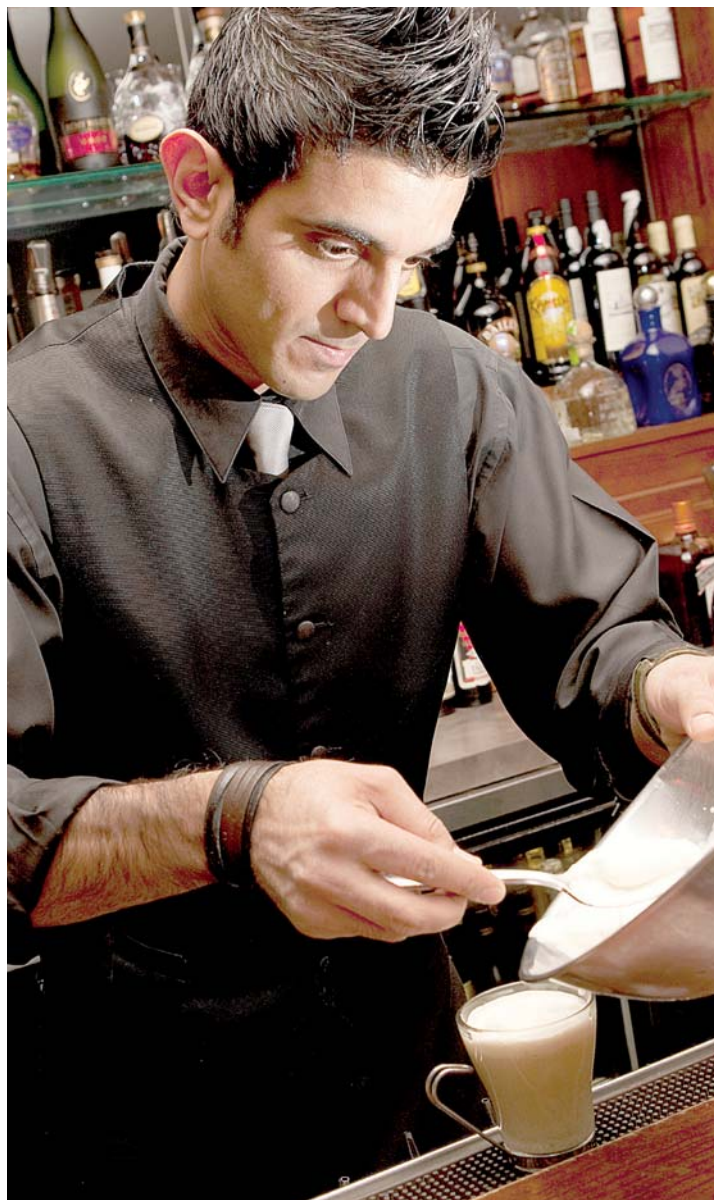


Unusual additions — star anise, chili powder, even champagne — can transform eggnog from trad to downright rad.

“Most eggnog is incredibly boring,” says Kara Newman, spirits scribe and author of “Spice & Ice” (\$17, Chronicle). “It’s a comfort food we consume out of tradition. The challenge: jazzing it up. It’s versatile.” In her Sucker Punch Eggnog (see recipe at Expressnightout.com), Newman even adds a kicky dash of chipotle powder.

But whether you splash some orange juice or toss a pinch of fiery cayenne pepper into your cup, don’t be surprised if eggnog purists label you Scrooge for remixing tradition. After all, the drink’s history is as rich as, well, heavy cream folded into spiked egg yolks.

American revelers have swigged the stuff since colonial times, when homesick settlers imported the idea from old England. Named for the squat wooden vessel the drink was served in — a noggin — eggnog was laced with booze, a germ-killing trick pre-pasteurization.



Equinox's Simo Ahmadi mixes up a cup of eggnog, a yuletide fave since colonial times.

Over the centuries, eggnog has nuzzled up to a liquor cabinet of spirits, counting Madeira (a fortified wine from Portugal), scotch,

“The key to eggnog is marrying egg and cream with spirits,” says Jim Hewes, bartender at the Willard InterContinental hotel (1401 Penn-

“Most eggnog is incredibly boring. It’s a comfort food we consume out of tradition. The challenge: jazzing it up.”

whiskey, bourbon, rum and brandy as sometimes bedfellows. President William Henry Harrison allegedly liked eggnog dosed with hard cider.

sylvania Ave. NW; 202-628-9100). In other words, the booze du jour is a matter of regional custom or tippler’s choice (though you might stick to dark, wintry pours).

Home bartenders who would rather get coal in their stockings than drink plain nog should try inspired flavor variations. At the Willard, Hewes goes classic Southern with a frothy, custardy concoction of raw eggs, heavy cream, Maker’s Mark bourbon, Coin-treau, sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg, topped with grated nutmeg and orange peel. But sometimes he thinks Jamaican with island rum or Swedish with cherry brandy.

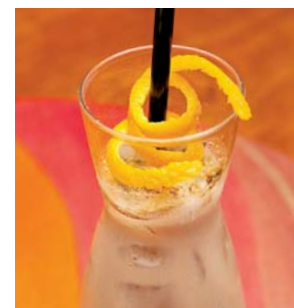
Or for dessert-like decadence, you might add chocolate liqueur and peppermint schnapps or crème de menthe, then garnish the elixir with a dollop of whipped cream and Peppermint Patty on top.

At Equinox (818 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-331-8118), bar manager Simo Ahmadi recharges his annual eggnog cocktail menu with spices drawn from his Moroccan heritage and house-infused liquors such as his Pumpkin Cobbler #2. Inspired by a pumpkin shake, the indulgent drink stars vanilla-infused rum, Laird’s applejack, pumpkin spice liqueur and a splash of orange bitters. “It tastes like cake in liquid form,” Ahmadi says.

Of course, richer-than-Bill-Gates eggnog is better off — like old Scrooge counting his cash — all by its lonesome. For a mix that pairs nicely with party nibbles, Tryst Coffee’s (2459 18th St. NW; 202-232-5500) beverage manager, David Fritzler, suggests gravitating toward spice rack updates (star anise, cloves, cinnamon, ginger). He also likes upping eggnog’s intensity with equal parts tequila and mescal, or whiskey plus a few drops of absinthe.

Seasonings and spirits aside, the basic blend of raw egg and cream is what makes some imbibers a bit squeamish. Brave hosts and hostesses — inviting guests who aren’t particularly litigious — might whip up a homemade batch. But to play it safe, use pasteurized eggs or pre-made cartons from the grocery store, which you’ll improve with

Recipe File



AFTER-DARK EGGNOG

Ingredients

1 OZ Disaronno Originale Amaretto Liqueur

2 OZ eggnog (homemade or store-bought)

1/2 OZ sparkling wine

Splash of orange juice

Dash of orange bitters

Fill a drink shaker with ice, and pour in ingredients. Shake well, then strain into a flute glass. Top with sparkling wine and garnish with ground nutmeg.

ADAPTED FROM AN EQUINOX RECIPE

special spices. “I’d rather spend my time tweaking the seasonings and making that the standout,” says Newman.

Or take a cue from Gina Chersevani, mixologist at PS 7’s (777 I St. NW; 202-742-8550). In her holiday cocktail Scorched Milk, she leaves the egg out entirely, instead blending flavored scorched milk with bourbon and Sauternes, a French dessert wine, for a lighter, floatier tippie. She laces the milk with a smidge of sugar plus cardamom (her favorite secret add-in for any recipe), ginger and vanilla bean; she serves the drink topped with a half-pinch of cinnamon and a single fleur de sel flake. “It’s everything that eggnog ever wanted to be,” Chersevani says.

But no matter which nog you swig, remember: Too much of the loaded libation could knock you off your noggin. **KATIE KNOROVSKY**

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Tuesday's Results

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"No. Poll numbers and the economy are the benchmarks, and both have gotten much worse since he took office. He deserves a D in every aspect except for wasteful spending, at which he excels."

COMMENTER RICK NORTON

"No way. More like a D+. Are you better off than you were a year ago? Has your home value gone up compared to a year ago? Are we in less debt as a country than a year ago?"

COMMENTER LOL

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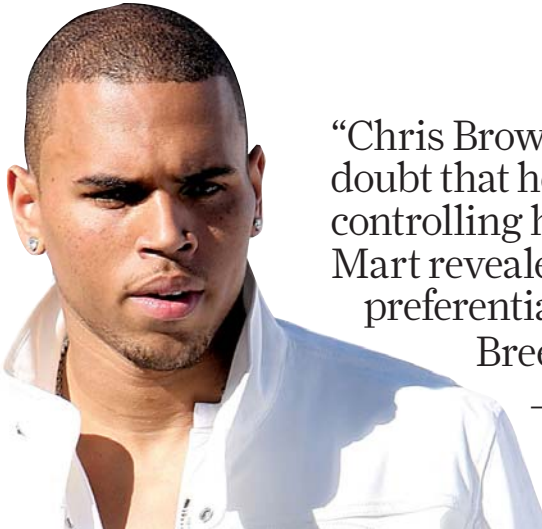
"The world has one more Kardashian to keep up with. As 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' fans may recognize, the baby's middle name is the same as the family's boutique!"

— POPCRUNCH.COM FINDS A SNARKY WAY TO WELCOME MASON DASH DISICK, SON OF KOURTNEY KARDASHIAN AND SCOTT DISICK, INTO THE WORLD.



"After the news that Courtney Love lost legal guardianship of her daughter, common-sense speculation suggested that her explicit drug use and total lack of parental skills resulted in the change."

— PEREZHILTON.COM IS NOT ALL THAT SURPRISED THAT FRANCES BEAN COBAIN, DAUGHTER OF LOVE AND FORMER NIRVANA FRONTMAN KURT COBAIN, WANTS TO LIVE WITH HER GRANDMOTHER.



"Chris Brown gave us one more reason to doubt that he has never had any problems controlling his anger. When a trip to Wal-Mart revealed the superstore is giving preferential treatment to Alicia Keys, Breezy had another meltdown."

— HUFFINGTONPOST.COM HAS LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR BROWN, WHO DELETED HIS TWITTER ACCOUNT AFTER UNLEASHING A RANT OVER THE WEEKEND ABOUT HIS ALBUM'S NOT BEING STOCKED ADEQUATELY AT A CONNECTICUT WAL-MART.

"IN THE PAST, Tiger [Woods] may have been untouchable, and so reporters may not have wanted to open this can of worms. But the armor has been pierced. It's open season now."

— BUSINESSINSIDER.COM REACTS TO NEWS THAT THE GOLFER'S CANADIAN DOCTOR IS BEING INVESTIGATED ON SUSPICION OF PROVIDING ATHLETES WITH PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS.



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Horoscope

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You may have to behave somewhat out of character in order to get what you want from someone who seems to hold all the cards.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Don't let yourself fall prey to any kind of negative emotions springing from a situation that has you protecting yourself more than usual.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) A little more excitement comes your way — especially if you take someone up on an offer that came as a complete surprise. Have some fun.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Work beckons, and you're in the mood to get things done ahead of schedule. It's time to put your nose to the grindstone.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You can pursue your goals with greater zeal than usual. A friend or co-worker comes through with some timely and invaluable help.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You may be unusually possessive. Don't send out the wrong signals to those who require special handling.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Your demands on yourself and others must be held in check. Don't let yourself be unrealistic in your desires or expectations.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Avoid being foolhardy. You can take certain risks, certainly, but consider all possible outcomes before making a move.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Extravagance is not for you. Try to be as efficient and economical as possible. You may have to go without something you're used to having.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) A rival is asking you to take your best shot — and you may be more prepared than ever to claim your place as the champion.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Tension is mounting at home or at the workplace — but the where matters less than the why. Get to the bottom of this situation now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You can channel your energies into a project that will surely attract a good deal of attention from the experts. Status is on the rise.

Scrabble Grams

PAR SCORE 155-165, BEST SCORE 214

A ₁	E ₁	E ₁	K ₅	M ₃	R ₁	T ₁

--

RACK 1

A ₁	A ₁	E ₁	E ₁	S ₁	P ₃	P ₃

--

RACK 2

Double Word Score

A ₁	E ₁	E ₁	I ₁	O ₁	L ₁	G ₂

--

RACK 3

A ₁	E ₁	K ₅	F ₄	T ₁	L ₁	S ₁

--

RACK 4

1st Letter Triple

Yesterday's Solution

W ₄	E ₁	A ₁	S ₁	E ₁	L ₁	
D ₂	I ₁	A ₁	G ₂	R ₁	A ₁	M ₃
F ₄	R ₁	I ₁	G ₂	A ₁	T ₁	E ₁
C ₃	A ₁	T ₁	W ₄	A ₁	L ₁	K ₅

PAR SCORE 145-155 TOTAL 230

RACK 1 = 9
RACK 2 = 61
RACK 3 = 62
RACK 4 = 98
TOTAL 230

FOUR RACK TOTAL

Make a 2-7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. Blank tiles used as any letter have no point value. Scrabble is a trademark of Hasbro in the U.S. and Canada.

Sudoku

DIFFICULT

4		1			9		3	7
7				6				
			4					2
5				2		1		
	8		7		5		2	
		3		1				4
3					6			
				7				9
8	4		1			5		6

Yesterday's Solution

4	9	8	2	1	6	5	3	7
7	3	2	8	9	5	4	1	6
5	6	1	3	7	4	2	9	8
8	2	3	7	6	9	1	4	5
9	1	4	5	8	2	7	6	3
6	7	5	4	3	1	8	2	9
3	5	9	1	2	7	6	8	4
1	8	7	6	4	3	9	5	2
2	4	6	9	5	8	3	7	1

Need more Sudoku? Find another puzzle in the Comics section of The Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

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Comics

FIND MORE COMICS AT EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM

POOCH CAFE | PAUL GILLIGAN



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE | STEPHAN PASTIS



Forecast

43 | 28

Today: Breezy and colder today with abundant sunshine. Clear tonight.

40 | 26

Tomorrow: Breezy tomorrow with plenty of sun. Clear tomorrow night.

Looking Ahead

FRI	SAT	SUN
42 28	39 26	40 27

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today: 7:20 a.m.
Sunset today: 4:47 p.m.
Moonrise today: 7:36 a.m.
Moonset today: 4:53 p.m.

Almanac

Normal high: 47
Record high: 71
Normal low: 32
Record low: 6

FORECAST BY ACCUWEATHER.COM ©2009

Clinical Research Study For Birth Control

Millennium Clinical Trials, LLC is conducting a clinical research study of an investigational oral medication for birth control.

Qualified participants will receive at no cost for up to 12 months:

- Periodic gynecological exams
- Investigational oral birth control medication

Females that are 18-40 years of age, sexually active, and have regular menstrual cycles may be eligible for participation.

Compensation up to \$300 is available for time and travel.

For information about this research study, please call 703-527-8100 or email bcstudy@mctrials.net

Participation is completely voluntary

Sleep and Weight Study

If you:

Are obese with a Body Mass index greater than 35

Are a man or a woman between the ages of 18-50

Usually sleep 5 hours or less per night, but do not have chronic insomnia



You may consider participating in a study (Protocol 06-DK-0036) of 12 months duration.

The goal of this study is to understand the relationship between chronic sleep deprivation and health, including body weight and hormones.

All visits take place at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Research Center in Bethesda, MD.

Reimbursement is provided for the time spent.

For more information call: **1-800-411-1222** or visit: clinicaltrials.gov

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

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lookout puzzles

Crossword

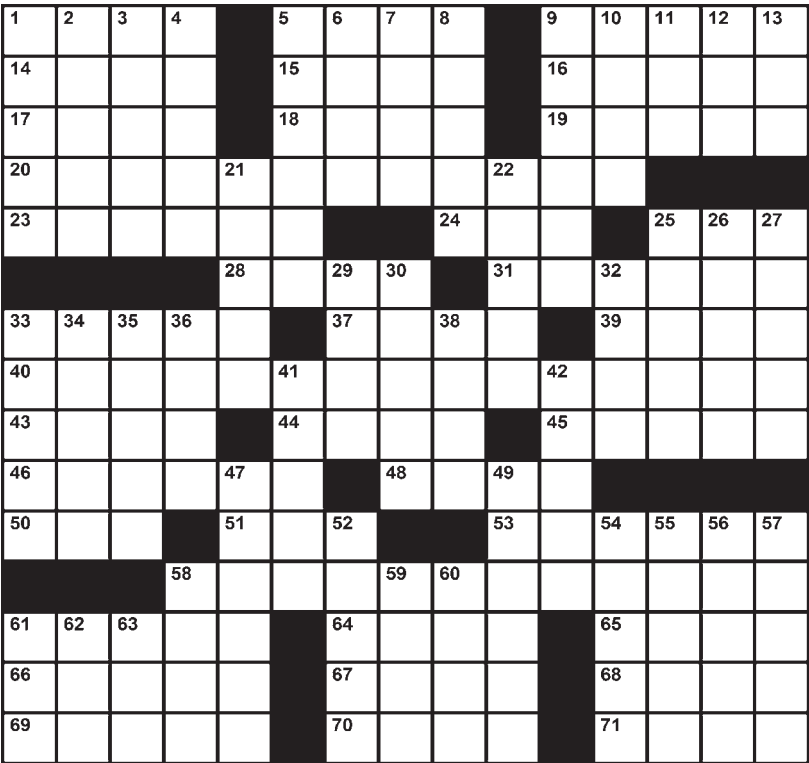
NOW LAY IN IT

ACROSS

- 1 Great frigid mass
5 "Gilligan's Island" tree
9 Copy editor's concern
14 Young woman
15 Prima donna's number
16 "Ain't gonna happen"
17 "The Adventures of Milo and ____"
18 Corporate heads-up
19 Fill with high spirits
20 Cracker topping
23 Bit of corn
24 Not his or hers
25 English orthodontist's org.
28 Big barrels
31 Toyota Prius, e.g.
33 Not merely decorative
37 "All right!"
39 Senior golfer Isao
40 Anxiety reducer
43 Tennyson's "Geraint and ____"
44 "Silent Night," notably
45 Satellite broadcasts
46 Add ammo
48 Brown quickly at a high temperature
50 Boar's abode
51 Spy novel org.
53 Natural bath accessories (var.)
58 Gossipy newspaper
61 Alibi
64 Spiritual adviser
65 Golden fleece seeking vessel
66 "Farewell, mon ami"
67 Muslim leader
68 Balcony feature
69 A letter provides one
70 Work at the docks
71 "... or ____!"

DOWN

- 1 Congregation
2 Table leg shaper
3 American dogwood
4 Ruhr River valley city
5 Anderson of "Baywatch"
6 Son of Hera
7 Like overcooked pasta
8 Early New Zealander
9 A little nervous
10 "Deal!"
11 "A clue!"
12 Came down with
13 Yeanling's mom
21 Split apart
22 Word on old gas pumps
25 Out of cabbage
26 Protected by an embankment
27 Mine openings
29 Canine in Oz
30 Shaggy-haired terriers
32 Cause of destruction

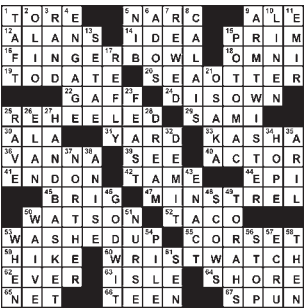


EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER

- 33 Utility customers
34 Creed
35 With no warmth
36 Pachisi kin
38 Up to scratch
41 Sari site
42 Big hairdos
47 Accumulate
49 Shelfmate of Elle and Cosmo
52 One of Charlie's trio
54 ORD, on luggage tags
55 Like a wild animal
56 Athena's shield
57 Took a five-finger discount
58 Employs pupils
59 Former Russian parliament

- 60 Unfit for farming
61 First name in Baltimore baseball
62 Poetic form
63 Airline ticket word

Yesterday's Solution



Today in History

1773 American colonists, dressed as Indians, dump 342 chests of tea overboard from a British ship in Boston Harbor, staging a protest against British taxation. The event becomes known as the Boston Tea Party.

1960 A United Air Lines DC-8 and a TWA Super Constellation collide over New York City, killing 134 people.

express



Published by Express Publications LLC
1150 15th St. NW, Washington, DC 20071
A Subsidiary of The Washington Post Co.

Editorial: 202-334-6800
Fax: 202-334-9777
Circulation: 202-334-6992
Advertising: 202-334-6732
or ads@readexpress.com
Classifieds: 202-334-6200

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**LIES, LIES****A Celebrity Who Likes Paparazzi? Impossible!**

Kate Hudson and Alex Rodriguez have split, *Usmagazine.com* reported. A source blames the high-profile breakup on Hudson's desire for attention from the paparazzi: "Alex wanted someone who was more interested in building a long-term relationship than just building their profile," the source said of the supposedly camera-hungry Hudson. (EXPRESS)

AGING**No Longer Young And Sweet, or Only 17**

ABBA is dancing its way into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, along with Genesis, Jimmy Cliff, the Hollies and the Stooges. The list of the next class of inductees was released Tuesday by the Cleveland hall. ABBA and the Stooges made it in this time after being nominated previously but not making the cut. ABBA continues to sell millions of records each year. (AP)



Benny, Anna, Björn and whoever that brunette one is pose together in 1977.

Dirtbag Digest**Hey, Where's Jon Gosselin Today?**

Long Island authorities say Lindsay Lohan's father is accused of violating an order of protection by calling his estranged girlfriend. Lohan was arrested Monday on a charge of criminal contempt. In June, a judge said Lohan would avoid prosecution on a charge of aggravated harassment if he stayed out of trouble for a year. (AP)



MICHAEL O'NEILL FOR SPORTS ILLUSTRATED/AP

FASHION**Famous Man in Tights**

Stephen Colbert is gracing the cover of the latest *Sports Illustrated*, on newsstands Wednesday. The host of Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report" appears wearing an Olympic speedskating uniform in the issue, which is devoted to sports media. In November, devoted Colbert fans known as the Colbert Nation became the official primary sponsor of U.S. Speedskating, donating more than \$250,000. (AP)

**TIMING****Man, This Album Will Basically Publicize Itself**

Lil Wayne heads to jail in February in his New York gun case, just days after his next album comes out. The rap star's sentencing date is Feb. 9, set in a Manhattan state court Tuesday. Lil Wayne said nothing during his court appearance. He pleaded guilty in October to attempted criminal possession of a weapon. The charge stemmed from a 2007 traffic stop of his tour bus. His plea deal calls for a year in jail. Cash Money Records co-founder Birdman said Lil Wayne's next album, "Rebirth," is due for release Feb. 1. (AP)

"Oh, my God, Justin Timberlake just said my name."

— **GABOUREY SIDIBE**, STAR OF "PRECIOUS" AND AN 'N SYNC FAN, ON HER NOMINATION FOR A BEST ACTRESS GOLDEN GLOBE, ANNOUNCED BY TIMBERLAKE.

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